



GP3731
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Hathaway) Before the Examiner
Serial No. 10/008,781) Woo, Julian W.
Filed November 13, 2001)
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR)
POSITIVE CLOSURE OF AN)
INTERNAL TISSUE MEMBRANE)
OPENING)
Group Art Unit
3731

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AUG 06 2004
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RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2004, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this transmittal

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3 of this transmittal.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this transmittal.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

July 28 2004
(Date of Deposit)

James B. Myers, Jr.

Name of Registered Representative

James B. Myers Jr.
Signature

July 28 2004
Date of Signature